

## WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of playing a progressive game, comprising:  
conducting a wagering game at a gaming terminal;  
5 achieving a progressive game entry award at said gaming terminal;  
activating said progressive game in response to achieving said progressive  
game entry award;  
displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements during said  
progressive game;  
10 selecting, via player inputs, at least one of said plurality of player-selectable  
game elements; and  
awarding a progressive game payoff based on said selecting.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein said selecting includes sequentially selecting  
15 said player-selectable game elements, said player-selectable game elements including  
a continue-game element that allows for the continuation of said progressive game  
and a stop-game element that stops said progressive game.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein said sequentially selecting one of said  
20 continue-game elements increases said progressive game payoff.
4. The method of claim 2, wherein said progressive game includes first and  
second progressive game payoffs, said second progressive game payoff being higher  
than said first progressive game payoff, selecting a predetermined number of said  
25 continue-game elements allows said player to achieve said second progressive game  
payoff.
5. The method of claim 2, wherein said progressive game includes first and  
second progressive game payoffs, said second progressive game payoff being higher  
30 than said first progressive game payoff, said continue-game elements including level-  
increasing elements, selecting a predetermined number of said level-increasing  
elements allows a player to achieve said second progressive game payoff.



6. The method of claim 1, wherein said achieving said progressive game entry award includes selecting from a plurality of progressive game qualifying items, at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items permitting entry to said progressive game.

5

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said progressive game qualifying items are video envelopes that are selectable by a player at said gaming terminal, said at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items including an invitation therein that is displayed in response to said player selecting said at least one of said plurality of progressive game qualifying items.

10

8. The method of claim 1, wherein said progressive game includes first and second progressive game payoffs, said first and second progressive game payoffs being displayed on signage located above said gaming terminal.

15

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said steps of conducting, achieving, activating, and displaying are performed by a CPU internal to said gaming terminal.

10. A method of playing a progressive game at a gaming terminal, comprising:  
receiving, from said gaming terminal, at least one player input during said progressive game;  
in response to said receiving, determining whether said player input achieves a first progressive game payoff or a second progressive game payoff, said second progressive game payoff being greater than said first progressive game payoff; and  
awarding to said player a corresponding one of said first and second progressive game payoffs.

20

25

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said at least one player input includes a plurality of sequential player inputs.

30



12. The method of claim 10, wherein said gaming terminal includes a display, said display for displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements, said at least one player input corresponding to one of said plurality of player-selectable game elements.

5 13. The method of claim 12, wherein said receiving includes activating a touch screen positioned over said one of said plurality of player-selectable game elements.

14. The method of claim 10, wherein said gaming terminal is one of a plurality of gaming terminals connected to signage for displaying said first and second progressive game payoffs, each of said plurality of gaming terminals competing for said first and second progressive game payoffs.

15. The method of claim 10, further including prior to said step of receiving, conducting a progressive game qualifying round for determining whether a player at said gaming terminal is permitted to enter said progressive game and play for said first and second progressive game payoffs.

16. The method of claim 15, wherein said progressive game qualifying round including selecting, at said gaming terminal, one of a plurality of progressive game qualifying items, at least one of said progressive game qualifying items including a progressive game qualifying award for allowing said player at said gaming terminal to enter said progressive game.

17. The method of claim 15, wherein said qualifying round yields a higher probability of entry into said progressive game in response to higher amounts being wagered in a basic game at said gaming terminal.

18. The method of claim 10, wherein said determining is performed by a CPU internal to said gaming terminal.

30

19. The method of claim 10, wherein said determining is performed by a CPU external to said gaming terminal.



20. A method of playing a progressive game, comprising:  
receiving one of a plurality of player-selectable inputs, said plurality of player-selectable inputs including a stop-game input and a continue-game input;  
5 in response to receiving said continue-game input, allowing a player to continue said progressive game; and  
in response to receiving said stop-game input, ending said progressive game and awarding a progressive game payoff.
- 10 21. The method of claim 20, wherein in response to receiving said continue-game input, providing said player with an award.
22. The method of claim 20, wherein said progressive game payoff has multiple payoff amounts, said awarding including providing a higher payoff in response to a  
15 predetermined number of continue-game inputs being received.
23. The method of claim 20, wherein said steps of allowing and ending are performed by a CPU located remotely from said gaming terminal, said CPU controlling the operation of said progressive game.
- 20 24. The method of claim 23, wherein said remote CPU is located in signage adjacent to said gaming terminal, said signage displaying said progressive game payoff.
- 25 25. A gaming terminal capable of playing a progressive game that is triggered during or after a wagering game being played at said gaming terminal, comprising:  
an input device for receiving inputs from a player during said wagering game,  
said inputs including a wager amount;  
a display for displaying a randomly selected outcome of said wagering game in  
30 response to receiving said wager amount from said player; and  
wherein, in response to said progressive game being triggered, said display displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements, a progressive



game payoff being determined based on a selection by said player of  
said player-selectable game elements.

26. The gaming terminal of claim 25, wherein said input device includes a touch  
5 screen overlying said display, said touch screen providing for said selection of said  
player-selectable game elements.

27. The gaming terminal of claim 25, wherein said player-selectable game  
elements are presents that, if selected, are opened to reveal an outcome.

10

28. The gaming terminal of claim 25, wherein said player-selectable game  
elements include at least one continue-game element and at least one stop-game  
element, said selecting continues until said stop-game element is selected.

15 29. The gaming terminal of claim 28, wherein said progressive game is a  
multilevel progressive game and said continue-game elements include level-increasing  
elements, said selection of a predetermined number of said continue-game elements  
providing for said progressive game to be at a higher level.

20 30. The gaming terminal of claim 28, wherein said continue-game elements  
include a credit element, said credit element providing said player of said progressive  
game with a credit award.

31. The gaming terminal of claim 25, further including a local CPU determining  
25 said randomly selected outcome.

32. The gaming terminal of claim 25, further including a connection port for  
coupling said gaming terminal to signage located adjacent to said gaming terminal for  
displaying a progressive game payoff.

30

33. A gaming terminal for playing a progressive game, comprising:



a connection port for coupling said gaming terminal to signage located adjacent to said gaming terminal for displaying at least one payoff amount for said progressive game;  
a display for displaying a plurality of player-selectable game elements; and  
5 an input device for receiving inputs corresponding to selected ones of said plurality of player-selectable game elements, said selected ones of said plurality of player-selectable game elements determining a payoff amount for said progressive game.

10 34. The gaming terminal of claim 33, wherein said signage is coupled to a plurality of gaming terminals competing in said progressive game.